

## Nelson Co. ATC students fund Shellie Thompson Scholarship



*(l to r): John Sanders, Shellie Thompson, and SkillsUSA Kentucky State Director Steve Phillippi. Sanders presents scholarship check to Phillippi in honor of Shellie Thompson.*

When Nelson Co. ATC students found out their beloved administrative secretary Shellie Thompson was retiring, they decided to do something special in her honor – they voted to fund a \$200 SkillsUSA Kentucky State Officer Scholarship.

“It was their way of showing her how much respect they have for what she

has done for them,” says Nelson Co. ATC principal John Sanders. “We have seven SkillsUSA program areas and that is why SkillsUSA Kentucky was chosen as the receiving organization. But, that didn’t keep the HOSA students from taking part in this scholarship endeavor. They wanted her to know they

were part of this recognition too. As a principal, it means a lot to me to see students come together for the good of the cause – and Shellie is certainly a good cause.”

Although retiring with 27 years of service, Thompson has only worked 11 of those years at the area technology center. But, in those 11 years, she made an unforgettable, positive impression on hundreds of students who walked through the door.

“She has been a mother to many of the students,” says KY Tech area supervisor Mary Stratton. “It’s amazing how much of a connection she has with so many of the students – from the office aides who confide in her daily, to the students who enter her office with personal problems – she has been there for them. That makes a real difference in the lives of students.”

“The most important aspect about having this position is being able to work closely with students,” said Thompson. “It is amazing to me how much these young people have touched my heart. They have given me a purpose in the workplace besides completing my daily duties. I feel that if I have made even the slightest difference in their lives by working and talking with them, then I have accomplished what I came here for.”



*Phillippi presents Thompson with a special plaque commemorating the Shellie Thompson Scholarship*

*“SkillsUSA Kentucky is appreciative of this scholarship and the fact that students hold Mrs. Thompson in such high regard,” said Phillippi. “This is indeed special.”*



Thompson has worked for four principals in her 11 years at the school including Myra Helphinstine, Duane Flora, Ronnie Woods and most recently John Sanders. She even has her own special parking place, complete with a personalized sign made by co-workers.

Says Thompson, "Besides these students, the staff here has had a huge affect on my life. The people I have worked with at Nelson Co. ATC have been exceptional. Not only is their work a priority, but also they are a good influence on these teenagers. They truly care about them."



*Nelson Co. ATC faculty and staff.*

## Former principals weigh-in regarding Thompson

**Duane Flora, Hughes Jones-Harrodsburg ATC Principal:**

**"Shellie Thompson is an inspiration to work with. She was more than an Administrative Secretary; she was a counselor, a mentor, a leader and a great friend. Much of the success Nelson County ATC has received is due to her efforts. I am one of the fortunate to be trained by Shellie Thompson."**

**Ronnie Woods, Morgan Co. ATC Principal:**

**"In all of my years in the KY Tech system, Shellie is the epitome of a first class administrative secretary as well as a kind, caring and giving person. She is a shining star and it was my pleasure and privilege to work with her."**

**"Shellie has a gift of relating to the students and staff. She has always been a positive influence in the lives those she has come in contact with. She is always willing and ready to help others who call on her years of expertise. In my opinion, she will be greatly missed for her professionalism and personality. I wish her the best."**

**John Sanders, Nelson County ATC Principal:**

**"From the first day I walked into the school, Shellie made me feel at home. Moving into a new school and community can be a trying time for a family. Shellie and her family took my family under their wings, and I will forever be grateful."**

**"Shellie is very thorough and timely with all of her job tasks. I couldn't have asked for a better secretary. Shellie was put into this job for a reason; she has changed so many students' lives for the better. It is almost a daily occurrence that one of her office aides either stops by for advice or to share a landmark moment in their lives. She has a heart of gold and wears it on her sleeve."**

**"I have mixed emotions about Shelly retiring because she has touched so many lives. But I know that wherever she ends up doing, she will continue to change lives for the better."**



**Thompson:**

**"I have had hundreds of heart wrenching memories. However, times like having a scholarship named after you that the students voted on, thank you cards laid on my desk by students graduating, having my own parking spot made by co-workers and a sign with my name on it right in front of my office, and the emails I have received from KY Tech staff telling me they appreciate what I've done over the years makes me believe that I have made a difference. And, that's what it's all about – making a difference in the lives of people."**